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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 16 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the following reservations of Libya on the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development":

1. Libya underscores that the content of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be interpreted and implemented in a manner consistent with the national legislation and development priorities of countries, as well as their cultural and ethical values and religious background, and in line with universally recognized human rights.

2. Libya does not view the phrase "other status" in paragraph 19 of the declaration and target 10.2 as applying to the so-called constructs of "sexual orientation", "gender identity", same-sex couples or "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender".

3. Libya does not join the consensus with respect to target 3.7 and:

(a) As for "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, they should be age-appropriate, and Libya rejects that such a reference may be defined to include "comprehensive sexuality education";

(b) Libya further reaffirms that the prior right of parents to choose the kind of education given to their children, a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must be respected;

(c) The use of the terms "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services cannot imply any right of young children or adolescents to access any service without regard for parental responsibility;

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(d) Target 3.7 shall in no case be construed to create an obligation for States to provide information, education or health-care services that are neither lawful nor acceptable at the national level.

4. Libya understands, with respect to target 5.4, the term "within the household" only as defined in reference to "the family". The family, founded on the marriage of a man and a woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

5. Libya also enters an express reservation on target 5.6, which reads:

> Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Libya wishes to express a reservation on all terms and all possible interpretations in the document that are in contravention of Libyan national laws. Target 5.6 or any other provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its implementation or interpretation shall in no case refer to or imply the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

6. Libya understands "gender" to mean "male or female" only, and to have no meaning other than the customary and general usage of the term.

7. The use of the terms "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" and related terms throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does not create or presume the existence of a right to abortion.

8. Therefore, Libya will not accept at any point any policies, monitoring, evaluation or reporting on any provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that includes or tends to include, explicitly or implicitly, the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

9. Libya underscores, with respect to paragraph 75, the role of Governments in developing national and regional indicators, and stresses that global indicators for agreed goals and targets shall not invade national policy space or contradict national priorities on the above-mentioned concepts, as per Article 2.7 of the Charter of the United Nations.

10. Libya is of the view that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all international instruments relating to human rights and international law reflected therein are not intended to standardize the cultural values of peoples around the globe. Thus, Libya will implement and interpret the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in full accordance with Libyan national legislation and the ethical, cultural and religious values and convictions of Libyan society, and in line with universally recognized human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have the present statement of reservation circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15 and 116.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim O. **Dabbashi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative